

Classroom uses of blogs...

You might like to create a reflective, journal-type blog to...

- ♦ reflect on your teaching experiences.
- ♦ keep a log of teacher-training experiences.
- ♦ write a description of a specific teaching unit.
- ♦ describe what worked for you in the classroom or what didn't work.
- ♦ provide some teaching tips for other teachers.
- ♦ write about something you learned from another teachers.
- ♦ explain teaching insights you gain from what happens in your classes.
- ♦ share ideas for teaching activities or language games to use in the classroom.
- ♦ provide some how-to's using specific technology in the class, describing how you used this technology in your own class.
- ♦ explore important teaching and learning issues.



HOW LONG HAS THE CAT HAD HIS OWN BLOG?

You might like to start a class blog to...

- ♦ post class-related information such as calendars, events, homework assignments and other pertinent class information.
- ♦ post assignments based on literature readings and have students respond on their own blogs, creating a kind of portfolio of their work.
- ♦ communicate with parents if you are teaching primary school students.
- ♦ post prompts for writing.
- ♦ provide examples of classroom, vocabulary activities or grammar games.
- ♦ provide online readings for your students to read and react to.
- ♦ gather and organise internet resources for a specific course, providing links to appropriate sites and annotating the links as to what is relevant about them.
- ♦ post photos and comments on class activities.
- ♦ invite student comments or postings on issues in order to give them a writing voice.
- ♦ publish examples of good student writing done in class.
- ♦ showcase student art, poetry and creative stories.
- ♦ create a dynamic teaching site, posting not only class-related information, but also activities, discussion topics, links to additional information about topics they are studying in class and readings to inspire learning.
- ♦ create a literature circle (where groups of students read and discuss the same book).
- ♦ create an online book club.
- ♦ make use of the commenting feature to have students publish messages on topics being used to develop language skills.
- ♦ ask students to create their own individual course blogs, where they can post their own ideas, reactions and written work.
- ♦ post tasks to carry out project-based learning tasks with students.
- ♦ build a class newsletter, using student-written articles and photos they take.
- ♦ link your class with another class somewhere else in the world.

You can encourage your students (either on your blog using the comments feature or on their blogs) to blog...

- ♦ their reactions to thought-provoking questions.
- ♦ their reactions to photos you post.
- ♦ journal entries.
- ♦ results of surveys they carry out as part of a class unit.
- ♦ their ideas and opinions about topics discussed in class.

You can have your students create their own blogs to...

- ♦ learn how to blog.
- ♦ complete class writing assignments.
- ♦ create an ongoing portfolio of samples of their writing.
- ♦ express their opinions on topics you are studying in class, write comments, opinions or questions on daily news items or issues of interest.
- ♦ discuss activities they did in class and tell what they think about them. (You, the teacher, can learn a lot this way!)
- ♦ write about class topics, using newly learned vocabulary words and idioms.
- ♦ showcase their best writing pieces.

You can also ask your class to create a shared blog to...

- ♦ complete project work in small groups, assigning each group a different task.
- ♦ showcase products of project-based learning.
- ♦ complete a WebQuest (an online, structured research activity).